

Meteor-Heraut

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Chièvres - Schinnen - Brussels

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Quick Read

In General

Native Americans celebrate
White Eagle Dancers, a Native American dance and cultural group, perform Dec. 1, 7 p.m., at the Community Club on SHAPE; Dec. 2, 10 a.m., at AFNorth International School; Dec. 3, time TBA, at SHAPE Elementary School; and Dec. 4, 7 p.m., at Three Star Lounge in Brussels. The Native American Heritage Month tour is brought to you by Army Morale, Welfare and Recreation. Info: 361-5276.

Entertainment schedule
Country and western star Brad Cotter performs Nov. 23, 7 p.m., in Heidelberg at the Patrick Henry Village Pavilion; The Harlem Globetrotters are at the Benjamin Franklin Sports Arena in Mannheim, Dec. 12, 7 p.m., door opens at 6 p.m. Info: MWR office in Germany, DSN 379-6285.

Belgium

Holidays arrive
The SHAPE and Chièvres communities holiday tree lighting is Dec. 3, 5-7 p.m., beside PX parking lot and Grandma's Attic entrance. Free photos with Santa at the PX entrance. AAFES holiday bazaar Dec. 3-5 at the Community Activity Center. - *The NSA holiday tree lighting ceremony and community concert* is Dec. 3, 4:30-9 p.m., NSA Brussels American School. Info: DSN 368-9639 or 02 717-9639.

Tournament scheduled
The 2004 International Basketball Tournament is Nov. 29-Dec. 4 at SHAPE Main Gym. The SHAPE IBT is the biggest military sporting event on the NATO calendar and this year will host 10 teams. Info: Steve Richardson DSN 423-3905.

Netherlands and Germany

Flea market set
The BOSS Flea Market is Dec. 4, 11 a.m. - 3 p.m., at Schinnen Sports Center. Fee \$5 for table, vendor keeps profit. Open to all DoD ID cardholders. Food and refreshments. Next BOSS Meeting Dec. 9, 23, 2 p.m., JFC Brunssum, U.S. Delegation Building. Info: Terence Dodson, DSN 364-3748

Family event in woods
The Winter Woods Walk is Nov. 20, 1-3 p.m., at the Geilenkirchen new gym pavilion adjacent to the sport fields. Hosted by the Family Support Center for "Month of the Military Family," it's a family fun walk around the base with free holiday-themed photos, and food. Info: GK FSC, DSN 458-6015 or 02451 63-3791. Information about Month of the Military Family, contact Ed Carter, DSN 360-7500 or 31 46 443-7500.

Veterans' Day 2004

A color guard from 80th Area Support Group contributes to the solemnity of an Armistice Day ceremony at the cemetery in Chièvres Nov. 11. Europeans will likely always remember this date as the anniversary of signing the cease-fire document that ended World War I. Belgium and France suffered much during the war fought on their home soil until the Germans signed the armistice agreement Nov. 11, 1918, at Rethondes, France. A year later President Woodrow Wilson issued the first Armistice Day proclamation. An American Unknown Soldier was buried at Arlington Cemetery on this date in 1921. Armistice Day became an official holiday in the U.S. in 1926, celebrated at the 11th minute of the 11th hour, of the 11th day of the 11th month. The U.S. Congress issued a proclamation in 1927 requesting American flags be displayed on Nov. 11 in government buildings and by 1938 Congress issued another proclamation asking the date be used to remember "the cause of world peace." Unfortunately, the world peace did not last long and many more millions were killed in World War II. Emporia, Kansas held a ceremony to honor all veterans on this date in 1953, and on May 24, 1954 the U.S. Congress voted to officially change the name of the holiday to Veterans' Day. Americans experimented with moving the Veterans' Day holiday to the fourth Monday in October in 1968, and ten years later Congress returned the observance of Veterans' Day to its traditional Nov. 11 date.



PHOTO: Rick Haverinen

Military families 'wonderful,' anywhere

Every November since 1988 American military communities throughout the world have celebrated the contributions of military families. All services recognize the importance of the family on military readiness. A positive attitude and a can do spirit help military families cope with stresses civilian families rarely experience such as frequent moves, prolonged separation of the active-duty spouse, mission first requirements, and the threat of terrorism.. The Oppenheim family of Brussels is but one example of many families who illustrate that traditional values can be maintained while far from home.

For the past three years, Lt. Col. Jeffery Oppenheim and his wife, Kris, have been familiar faces in the Brussels community. On any given day one or the other can be seen volunteering at the school, at the clinic, or at church. And that's just for starters. The family is also active in scouting and youth sports.

"One of the things about military life we enjoy the most is to work and live in different places and serve in different communities with different people," Oppenheim said. "Whenever you move to a different community, you have

to access what the needs are and fill in where there are voids."

Oppenheim, who is a strategy and policy planner with the U.S. delegation to the NATO military committee, makes the time after his busy day to offer his services to the small but



PHOTO: Dorothy Nevins

Left to right in back row are Lt. Col. Jeffery Oppenheim, his wife Kris, children Kaitlyn and Matt. In the front row are Michael, John Paul, Elizabeth and Peter.

active Brussels community.

"I work with youth services as a coach and I play music at the local church," he said. "Our lives are pretty busy during the week so I find myself in the hours before church often scrambling to put it all together but it works."

Busy may be an understatement as they have six children: Matthew, 15; Kaitlyn, 14; Peter, 11; Elizabeth, 9; Michael, 7; and John Paul, 6.

"We have a very tight schedule. I call it crisis management," Kris laughed. "From about 4 to 8 we just do the shuttling to the practices. We have one family rule that they be involved in a sport. We make it work somehow. It's all about the children right now."

Since both come from military families, they are used to moving on from post to post. They say that quickly getting active in each community helps reduce some of the stress.

"I enjoy my time at the clinic for the Red Cross," Kris said. "I see myself as making an impact. Women are able to talk to me easily and I'm able to educate women on women's issues. Volunteering allows you to get out and make a difference."

"We're very happy here," she continued. "We feel the children are in a wonderful school with a wonderful learning environment."

Seconding his wife's opinion, Oppenheim said it's nice to be in a community where everyone helps out in some way.

See FAMILY Page 7.

Nowowiejski Notes



Col. Dean A. Nowowiejski, 80th ASG Commander

With this second edition of the **Meteor-Heraut**, I would like to highlight the name change and the reason for the new title of our Area Support Group newspaper. As I have mentioned before, we are an amalgamated community, united in purpose but extended over distance, with three central nodes of activity at Chièvres, Schinnen, and Brussels. We serve the common purpose of American communities and garrisons of excellence in support of NATO primarily, with a secondary purpose of life support to the operation of ports at Antwerp, Rotterdam, and Bremerhaven. Many of you have no sense of the numbers of American military personnel living in Belgium, The Netherlands, Luxembourg, and the northern German states, but it numbers in the several thou-

sands. It is in a sense of this extended but united American community that we changed the name of the Area Support Group newspaper to capitalize on both the heritage of the garrisons in Belgium and The Netherlands. The Meteor is titled from an historic Belgian fighter airplane once stationed at Chièvres Air Base, and The Heraut is the longstanding community newspaper at Schinnen, and is Dutch for "Town Crier." The **Meteor-Heraut** depicts the union of our several extended communities across the 80th Area Support Group throughout the Benelux.

As we approach the Thanksgiving holiday, a few reminders are in order. First, the Combined Federal Campaign is in full swing. By now, you should have been approached to consider a donation. I would invite all of you to review The Contributor Brochure for the campaign. If you look in the Brochure, for example The Military, Veterans and Patriotic Service Organizations, you will find organizations that benefit you directly overseas, and that support servicemembers and their families. Carefully evaluate the benefits these organizations bestow on our ASG family and deployed troops. As you know, every small donation counts. Please feel free to contact your unit representative to learn more about CFC donation options.

The second reminder, as we have just passed Veterans' Day and approach the 60th Anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge next month, is that you have several American cemeteries and memorials nearby that are moving and memorable places to visit. You can find the details, including directions, at <http://www.abmc.gov>. I would highlight that there are three cemeteries in Belgium: Ardennes, Henri-Chapelle, and Flanders Field, one in The Netherlands and one in Luxembourg. They contain Americans from both World Wars I and II, and include many of those lost in the Battle of the Bulge. I encourage you to make a trip to one of these cemeteries during your tour here. It is a pilgrimage that will leave you with a good feeling and a memory that you will never forget. Have a safe and happy Thanksgiving.

Be on the lookout for these forms arriving in your Belgian mailbox

This is a survey form, addressed to all adults who have a Belgian ID card, to determine your tax liability for use of radios and televisions in Wallonia.

If you have a green SHAPE ID card, you are exempt from this tax. Bring the form to the Central Processing Facility in Building 253 on SHAPE and you will receive your exemption form.

If you do not have a green SHAPE ID card, you must complete the survey and return it in the envelope provided. If you need help with the language, come to the Central Processing Facility. Operating hours are Monday-Thursday, 8:30 a.m.-noon, 1-5:30 p.m.; Friday 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m., 2-5:30 p.m.

'No loss of life,' USAREUR general's goal

10 November 2004

Bell Sends #5-05
Living the Warrior Ethos
On and Off Duty

1. Bell Sends 26-04 provided information on a tragic car crash that killed one of our Soldiers who was on block leave in CONUS. He had just completed 16 months of duty in Iraq. We recently received a report indicating that the Soldier had alcohol, cocaine, marijuana and oxycodone in his system at the time of his death, and was driving over twice the posted speed limit. This Soldier's irresponsible behavior and disregard for Army standards and values directly contributed to his own death and jeopardized the life of his passenger, who was paralyzed from the waist down by the crash.

2. Our deployed Soldiers face many challenges and dangers while fighting for freedom. During combat, they often feel invincible and have an increased tolerance for

risk. When they return to home station, these Soldiers must adjust to the fact that they are no longer in combat and reassess risks accordingly. As leaders we need to define for and ensure that our Soldiers know what constitutes acceptable behavior. Clearly, the Soldier who was killed had not accepted either our Army Values or our Army Ethos as a way of life. I'd like each of you to use the following process to help build awareness of and commitment to our Values and Ethos:

• **Leaders:** I ask you to become even more actively involved in the lives of your Soldiers, both on and off duty. Seek out and identify Soldiers who engage in high-risk activities, and demonstrate your commitment to their welfare by arranging

counseling for them when appropriate. The USAREUR Leaders Guide to Post-Reintegration (at <http://www.per.hq.usareur.army.mil/postreintegration/index.htm>) provides resources to help you recognize and help Soldiers, civilians, and family members meet post-reintegration challenges. Continue to conduct "Under the Oak Tree" counseling sessions and make verbal contracts with your Soldiers. Ensure they know what constitutes safe behavior, and that they abide by their contracts.

• **Soldiers:** I ask you to make a personal commitment to uphold Army standards and values at all times—whether you are in combat, at home station, or on R&R leave. Live by our Army Values and uphold our Army Ethos. You are ultimately responsible for your own



Gen. B. B. Bell

safety. Look out for your fellow Soldiers and provide assistance in times of need. Remember—professional Soldiers do not take illegal drugs, drive under the influence of drugs or alcohol, or needlessly place their lives or the lives of others at risk. We must live the Warrior Ethos on and off duty!

3. Ensure that this message is given the widest possible distribution by forwarding it electronically and posting it on bulletin boards. "No Loss of Life" is our goal. I want every Soldier to read this message and make a personal commitment to uphold the Army's standards and values as we continue to execute with excellence, Any Mission, Anywhere.

B. B. BELL
General, USA
Commanding

November holiday season reminds us to stay safe

1 November 2004

Bell Sends #4-05
November Holiday Safety

1. We will celebrate two special holidays in November: Veterans Day and Thanksgiving. Veterans Day is observed to honor those who have served with the U.S. Armed Forces. Thanksgiving provides an opportunity for us to give thanks for our bounty and our freedom.

2. November is also the traditional beginning of the winter holiday season in our colder climates. Many of us who are not deployed will be taking advantage of the long weekends this month to travel or participate in winter sports. As always, leaders must conduct "Under the Oak Tree" meetings with Soldiers before allowing them to go on pass or leave. Soldiers must openly discuss their plans with their leaders, and leaders must approve their travel plans before granting the time off. We must all take responsibility for

our actions, and make good risk-management decisions, both on and off duty.

3. We face a tough challenge this holiday season. The Secretary of Defense has directed DOD to reduce accidents by 50 percent by the end of FY 05. Overall, USAREUR is closing in on that goal, and I am sure we can achieve it; but we have already had one fatality this fiscal year, and the long winter in USAREUR is just beginning.

4. Over the next several months, the safety of our redeploying Soldiers will be our primary concern. Past redeployments have shown that when units first return to their garrisons, Soldiers concentrate on completing reintegration and reconstitution tasks; but 90 and 120 days after redeploying, they begin to lose their focus. Many start taking shortcuts, and some become involved in high-risk activities. The number of indiscipline indicators (such as drunk-driving incidents) starts to climb, and accidents begin to happen. Leaders at all levels must recognize the dangers facing our redeploying troops during this

timeframe and take steps to mitigate risks. Soldiers must be informed of these dangers and reminded to maintain their risk-management focus at all times. We must not let down our guard.

5. For our non-deployed Soldiers, enjoy the holidays and take time for yourselves and your families. Take care of each other and—above all—remain ever-vigilant. For the families of our deployed troops, thank you for your continued support to your Soldiers. You are all great patriots. *No Loss of Life* is our goal this holiday season. Do not let anyone die on your watch as we continue to execute with excellence, Any Mission, Anywhere.

B. B. BELL
General, USA
Commanding

Flu vaccine working its way here

Heidelberg, Germany – While most of us will be relying on preventive measures this year to ward off the influenza virus, high-risk beneficiaries in Europe will get the added protection of the vaccine. Additional influenza vaccine has recently arrived in Europe and while it is still being prioritized for deployed and deploying Soldiers, officials expect some of the vaccine to be available for high-risk patients at local medical treatment facilities in the next few days. The vaccine supply necessary to vaccinate the majority of deployed and deploying service members was distributed last month.

Vaccine supplies are expected to continue to arrive in Europe during the next few weeks and information on the availability of the vaccine for beneficiaries who are considered high risk will be available through local media outlets and from local military hospitals and clinics. Additionally, since vaccine availability is likely to vary at medical treatment facilities, patients should contact local clinics for vaccine availability information.

According to Col. Kent Bradley, Preventive Medicine Consultant, Europe Regional Medical Command, "We have already ensured that most of our Soldiers who are deployed have the vaccine. Now we are focusing on Soldiers who are slated for deployments and for our high-risk beneficiaries. These are patients who are at greatest risk of developing serious medical complications from the disease."

"To ensure that this special population of beneficiaries is protected, the physicians and clinicians at our medical treatment facilities will be monitoring patients during routine appointments to determine if the vaccine is needed," Bradley said. "Additionally, patients who are unsure of their medical status and wonder if they may be a candidate for the vaccine this year should contact their local health care provider."

Bradley added that people who believe themselves to be in the categories listed below should contact their local military medical treatment facility as soon as possible for evaluation and to get the vaccine



Broderbund

as appropriate.

High risk categories include: All children 6-23 months; Adults 65 years and older; All women who are pregnant during the influenza season; Out-of-home caregivers and household contacts of children less than 6 months; Health care workers involved in direct patient care; Children 6 months-18 years on chronic aspirin therapy, for rare conditions such as Juvenile Rheumatoid Arthritis or coronary artery abnormalities caused by Kawasaki's disease; Persons 2-64 years old with underlying chronic medical conditions - These

include in part, pulmonary illnesses such as emphysema, chronic bronchitis, or asthma, cardiovascular illnesses such as congestive heart failure, chronic metabolic diseases including diabetes mellitus, renal dysfunction, sickle cell disease, or immunosuppression (including immunosuppression caused by medications or by human immunodeficiency virus (HIV.)

Note – children less than 9 years old require two doses of the vaccine if they have not been previously vaccinated.

People who have had serious allergic reaction to eggs or to a previous dose of influenza vaccine or people who have a history of Guillain-Barre Syndrome should not receive the vaccine and should consult with their local health care provider for other preventive measures if in a high-risk category.

Bradley said that because of the vaccine supply situation, people not included in one of the priority groups should forego or defer vaccination and focus heavily on prevention.

"While getting vaccinated is the best prevention against influenza," he said, "there are several things people can do to make themselves less susceptible to influenza infection and to prevent spreading of the disease since most cold and flu viruses are spread by direct contact. These include: Avoid close contact with people who are sick. When you are sick, keep your distance from others to protect them from getting sick too; Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when coughing or sneezing. It may prevent those around you from getting sick. Then, clean your hands, and do so every

time you cough or sneeze; Washing your hands often will help protect you from germs. When available, wash your hands — with soap and warm water — then rub your hands vigorously together and scrub all surfaces. Wash for 15 to 20 seconds. It is the soap combined with the scrubbing action that helps dislodge and remove germs. When soap and water are not available, alcohol-based disposable hand wipes or gel sanitizers may be used. You can find them in most supermarkets and drugstores. If using a gel, rub the gel in your hands until they are dry. The gel doesn't need water to work; the alcohol in the gel kills germs that cause colds and the flu; Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth - Germs are often spread when a person touches something that is contaminated with germs and then touches his or her eyes, nose, or mouth; At schools, educators, staff, and parents can help slow the spread of colds and flu. Always remind students to cough or sneeze into a tissue and throw it away, cover up with a sleeve if you don't have a tissue, and clean hands often; Get plenty of sleep; Engage in physical activity; Manage stress; and Drink plenty of water, eat healthy foods, limit alcohol consumption and don't smoke.

Stay home when you are sick. If possible, stay home from work, school, and errands when you are sick. You will help prevent others from catching your illness. Your employer may need a doctor's note for an excused absence. Remember, keeping your distance from others may protect them from getting sick. When you are sick or have flu symptoms, stay home, get plenty of rest, and check with a health care provider as needed. Common symptoms of the flu include: fever (usually high), headache, extreme tiredness, cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, muscle aches, and nausea, vomiting, and diarrhea.

Until flu vaccine is available at military health facilities, community members may want to consider host nation health care providers who may be able to provide the inoculations for a fee. For more information, call your local immunization clinic.

Kids get version of Halloween without fright

By Rick Haverinen

Several chapel and church congregations pooled their resources Oct. 31 to offer their children a Halloween without things that go bump in the night.

"Our desire was to have an alternative to Halloween," said Chaplain (Maj.) Steven Michalke. "You can have a Christian perspective of this and not have the children go out and trick or treat, because it was fun and games and they still went away with plenty of candy and goodies. We had hot dogs, chips, drinks and ice cream."

About 225 kids and adults from congregations from Protestant and Gospel services at Daumerie and SHAPE

Chapels, International Baptist Church, and the Christian Servicemen's Center had two hours at the Chièvres Air Base community activity center on Halloween night to focus on the Bible and games instead of vampires and witches.

"I don't think most people would fault anyone for doing a traditional Halloween," said Maj. Mark Haseman, one of the

Michalke

event's coordinators. "I just think a lot of parents, especially here overseas, would rather their children not go door to door, which can be challenging. We had a safe and wholesome environment."

Chièvres Air Base Fire Dept. provided a rescue vehicle, the 80th Area Support Group provost marshal office brought a military police car and Task Force Reaper Sentinel manned an armored Humvee for the kids to explore outside the building. Michalke said the children were very interested in the switches for the vehicle sirens. Outside there were also "trunk or treat" exhibits arranged in the backs of five family vehicles.

"We have a conversion van so we decorated the back

of our van with a scene from the Garden of Eden with a couple of little puppets for Adam and Eve," Michalke said, "and then we had animals and some fruits and vegetable stuff in there to make it look like that particular scene."

Other scenes depicted Biblical stories of Daniel in the Lion's Den and Jonah and the Whale. The kids could go from vehicle to vehicle, guess what the scene depicted and pick up some candy along the way.



Haseman

Michalke said. "We had a cupcake walk instead of a cakewalk. We had face painting. We had the blowup jumping castles for the children. Plus we had a big screen TV in case the kids wanted to just sit down and rest, they could do that and watch some VeggieTales."

A "Roman Road" with multiple stations exhibited Bible verses.

The commissary donated candy, granola bars, and apples for a dry version of the popular bobbing game. The members of the multiple congregations put together the entertainment for the kids.

"Teresa Michalke got things started and did a lot of the purchasing prizes and decorating," Haseman said. "Deborah McMillon took initiative to do whatever needed to be done, especially the night of the event. Carolyn Padgett from International Baptist Church organized their whole congregation to support it. Barbara Carter from Christian Servicemen's Center provided a lot of support and did the cupcake

walk event. And Chaplain Michalke coordinated a lot of the vehicles."

Michalke said although the various congregations pooled money and manpower to entertain the kids, they didn't have enough resources to open up the event to the community as a whole. The event was enough of a success to have multi-congregation events in the future, though.

Many appreciated the gentle nature of the evening.

"It provided a wholesome environment where you weren't going to have Freddy Kruger or slasher claws around Winnie the Pooh or Tigger," Haseman said.

Chièvres and SHAPE communities mourn death of AAFES store manager

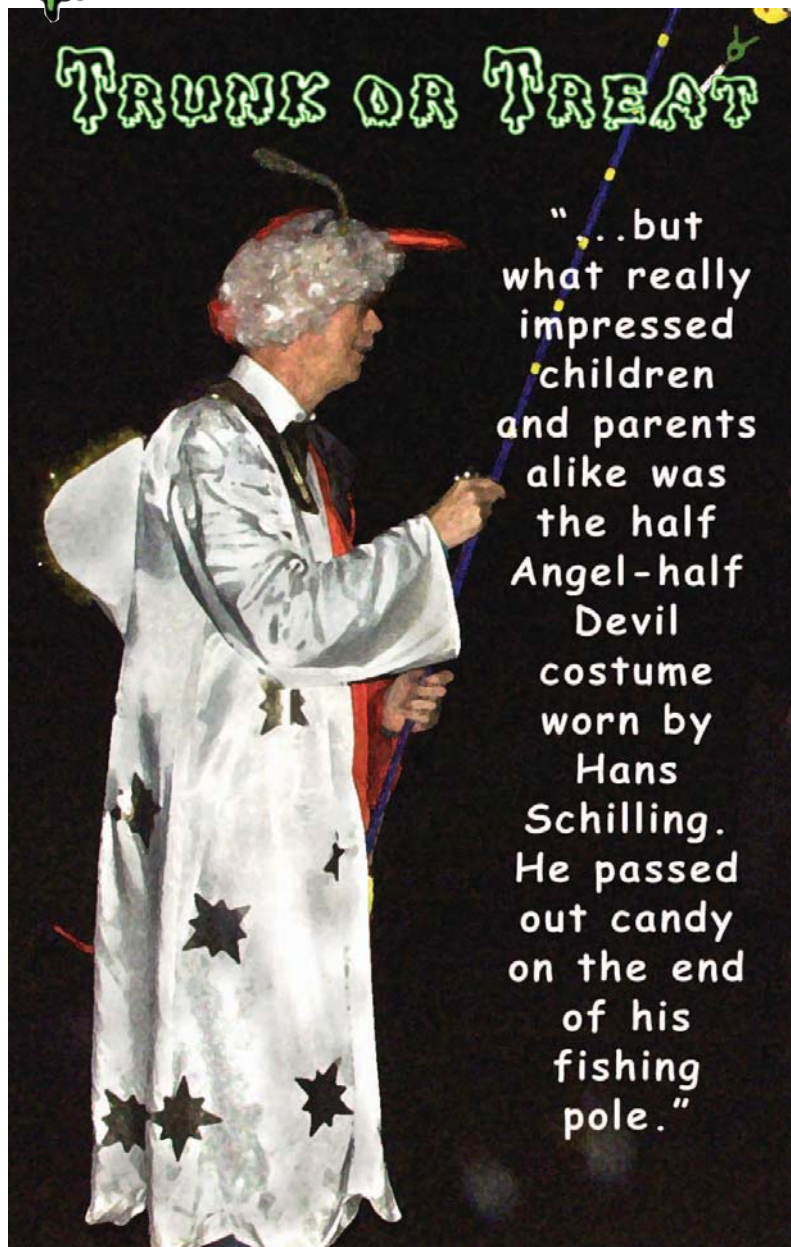
The Chièvres and SHAPE military communities are mourning the death of Debbie J. Galier. She was born Feb. 6, 1957 in Germany and she began her career with Army and Air Force Exchange Service in 1990 as a Sales Area Manager at the Tinker Air Force Base Main Exchange. Over the past 14 years, she held positions such as Customer Support Manager, Assistant Retail Manager, Sales and Merchandise Manager and her last position of Main Store Manager. She had worked in Grafenwoehr, Germany; Aviano, Italy; and Chièvres, Belgium. She started at the Chièvres Air Base store on July 20, 2002, where she worked until her passing on Nov. 4. Debbie is survived by her husband Andy and son T. J., her mother, brothers and sisters.



Debbie Galier

SCHINNEN HOSTS 'SPIRITED' CELEBRATION

Story and photos by Sylvia Bowron



"...but what really impressed children and parents alike was the half Angel-half Devil costume worn by Hans Schilling. He passed out candy on the end of his fishing pole."

DESPITE THE RAIN, about 500 ghosts, goblins, angels, and other creatures took part in the 254th Base Support Bn's Trunk or Treat Oct. 29.

Military, civilian and local national employees from the military communities in Germany and Belgium brought their children to take part in the Halloween festivities. Thirty people opened their vehicle trunks or set up tables to give treats to passing children. Many handing out candy dressed in costume and decorated their vehicles or tables. Some parents tried to outdo their kids.

A few MPs opened their trunk for the trick or treaters giving them candy, and a little scare using their PA system to supply haunting music and blood chilling screams. Rain and a fog surrounded the pavilion giving it an eerie look where the Community Recreation Division set up their haunted house.

After trick or treating, employees welcomed the children inside the sports center for hot chocolate and more fun. The center featured an air-filled bunny slide and a rock climb tower. For many children one, two, or five times was not enough! Parents were provided chairs to relax while the children played.

The Child Development Center provided craft tables, removable tattoos and several bean bag and ball toss games. Gerti Pelsers' face painting was a hit with young and old alike.

Inside the Dutch Kantine, Hank Slaughter played music for tired parents whose children were busy in the recreation center's indoor play area. Kids in costume got a free game of Cosmic Bowling.

Schinnen Army and Air Forces Exchange Service gave gift certificates for the best decoration efforts. Heidi Wallace won with her "ghost trunk" and the Joint Forces Command Chaplains Office won for best table. Teri Ryan, of Army Community Services said, "They had a friar, a devil and



This little trickster's mom had his face painted by CDC's Gerti Pelsers to compliment his costume.

others handing out candy, but what really impressed children and parents alike was the half Angel-half Devil costume worn by Hans Schilling. He passed out candy on the end of his fishing pole."

The rain stopped, the skies cleared, and by the time trunk or treat hours ended, a full moon emerged and lit up the sky. The evening ended with tired parents, tired children, and good weather.

Leisure Activities compiled by Rita Hoefnagels

Nov. 19-Dec. 19: Christmas Market at "Gemeentegrot" (Cave) in Valkenburg (NL). Open: weekdays, noon-9 p.m.; weekends, 11 a.m.-9 p.m. Info: 31 43 601-2271.

Nov. 19-Dec. 21: Christmas Market at "Fluwelengrot" (Cave) in Valkenburg (NL). Till Dec. 6 open weekdays, 2-9 p.m.; weekends, 11 a.m.-9 p.m. From Dec. 6 open weekdays, noon-9 p.m.; weekends, 11 a.m.-9 p.m. Entry: Euro 3.50; children (4-12) Euro 1.75. Info: 31 43 609-0110.

Nov. 20-21: Flea Market at America hall in Apeldoorn (NL). **Winter X-mas Fair at De Trippenmaker Estate in Hulshorst (NL).** About 70 craftsmen display products in candle-lit rooms. Entry: Euro 8.50. Open: Saturday, 1 a.m.-9 p.m. and Sunday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Info: 31 341 451541.

Flea Market at MECC in Maastricht (NL). Entry: Euro 3; children (6-12) Euro 2. Open: Saturday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. and Sunday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Jewelry Christmas Show at Bovenste Puth 19 in Puth (NL). Open both days noon-8 p.m.

Christmas Market at Darling expo on Volmerlaan 12 in Rijswijk (NL). Entry: Euro 5; children Euro 3.50. Info: 31 70 307-5900.

Fall Fair for antique and classic cars at Autotron in Rosmalen (NL). Entry: Euro 8; children (4-11) Euro 5. Info: 31 73 523-3300.

Collectors' Fair at "Beursgebouw" in Utrecht (NL). Entry: Euro 10. Info: 31 30 295-5911.

Thru Nov. 21: "Woonmecca", important living/interior fair at the MECC in Maastricht (NL). Open: Wednesday-Friday, 1-10 p.m. and

Saturday and Sunday, 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Entry: Euro 7.50; children (6-12) Euro 3.50.

Winter Fair at Jaarbeurs in the center of Utrecht (NL) Includes a large Christmas Market; a Christmas Town and Scandinavian winter village with ice-skating rink. Open: 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Entry: Euro 16. Info: 31 30 295-5911.

Nov. 23-25: Nostalgic Winter Fair at Cheese-farm "De Weistaar" on Rottegatsteeg 6 in Maarsbergen (NL). Open: Nov. 23-24, 11 a.m.-9 p.m. and Nov. 25, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Entry: Euro 5; children Euro 3. Info: 31 33 286-1943.

Nov. 25: Rhythm of the Dance, an Irish dance show at MECC in Maastricht (NL). Starts at 8:15 p.m. Entry: Euro 39. Info/reservations: 31 26 363-7833.

Nov. 25-28: Country and Christmas Fair at Castle De Haar in Haarzuilens (NL). The fair has attractive stands with antiques, Christmas decorations, china, silverware, crafts and more in the romantic castle décor. Open: Nov. 25-27, 11 a.m.-10 p.m. and Nov. 28, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Entry: Euro 12.50; children (12-16) Euro 6.50. Info: 31 251 20-9060.

Speed and Design at Koninklijke Nederlandse Jaarbeurs in the center of Utrecht (NL). A sportive car fair with formula one cars, car audio shows, tuning and styling, an indoor race circuit and lots more. Entry: Euro 15; children 12 and younger Euro 6. Info: 31 50 314-1122.

Nov. 26-27: Jazz Festival in several pubs and bars in the center of Maastricht (NL).

Nov. 26-28: "Jewel", a fair with

nothing else then jewelry at Castle "de Hooze Vuursche" on Hilversumsestraatweg 14 in Baarn (NL). Info: 31 35 541-2541.

Van Waes Antique Fair, a large antique fair at 't Spant in Bussum (NL). Info: 31 35 693-3254.

Nov. 26-Dec. 1: "Kerst Creatief" (Creative Christmas) Fair at Beursgebouw (adjacent to train station) in the center of Eindhoven (NL) with lots of Christmas decorations, candles, Christmas cards, cooking demonstrations, fashion and more. Entry: Euro 8. Open: 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Monday, 10 a.m.-9 p.m. Info: 31 418 51-1164.

Nov. 26-Jan. 2: Winterland Maastricht at Vrijthof in the center of Maastricht (NL). At this event young and old will have winter fun at the beautiful decorated Vrijthof square and surrounding streets in the center of Maastricht (NL). Info: 31 43 325-2121.

Nov. 27-28: Flea Market at Brabanthallen in Den Bosch (NL). Open: 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Dec. 2-5: Country Life Fair at RAI in Amsterdam (NL) with lots of food, Christmas decorations, gifts, antique, china, silverware and more. Open: 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Entry: Euro 14. Info: 31 20 585-4411.

Thru Jan. 9: "The Mysterious Bog People" exhibition at "Drents" Museum in Assen (NL). An international archeological exhibition displaying the most important findings, including mummified bodies, from the Netherlands, Germany and Denmark. Entry is Euro 5; children (5-15) Euro 2.50. Info: 31 592 37-7773 or www.bogpeople.org.

Thru Feb. 13: Nicholas and Alexandra Exhibition at Hermit-

age, Nieuwe Herengracht 14 in Amsterdam (NL). Tells the story of the last Tsar of Russia and his family through personal belongings, pictures, and more. Entry: Euro 6. Info: 31 20 530-8751.

Thru Sept. 4: Mummies, a spectacular exhibition of mummies at Rijksmuseum van Oudheden in Leiden (NL). Entry: Euro 6; children (6-17) Euro 5.50. Info: www.rmo.nl.

AFNorth Alliance Theater



Nov. 19, 20, 8 p.m.; Nov. 21, 4 p.m. - No Movies - Alliance Players present "The Diary of Anne Frank."

Nov. 26, 7:30 p.m. Anacondas: the Hunt for the Blood Orchid. Starring Johnny Messner, Morris Chestnut. Rated PG-13. A scientific expedition is sent to the jungle of Borneo to search for a rare black orchid by a powerful pharmaceutical company that hopes that the orchid can be used to unlock the secrets of youth and immortality. What they discover is that the orchid is already being used by a powerful group....a swarm of giant snakes.

Nov. 27, 3 p.m. The Cookout. Starring Eve P. Storm. Rated PG-13. Todd's newfound wealth means his current relationships are bound to change. This becomes evident when he decides to throw the family cookout his family has always had in his new neighborhood, which means that there's going to be some clashes.

5:30 p.m. Sky Captain & the World of Tomorrow. Starring Jude Law, Angelina Jolie, Gwyneth Paltrow. Rated PG. Ace reporter Polly Perkins has noted the sudden disappearances of many of the world's most famous scientists. After the city falls under attack of giant flying robots, she decides to team up with her old flame/aviation officer Joseph "Sky Captain" Sullivan and fly around the world in search of Dr. Totenkopf, whose plan is to create a "World of tomorrow"...and destroy the one of today.

8 p.m. Vanity Fair. Starring Reese Witherspoon, James Purefoy. Rated PG-13. Becky is orphaned at a young age. Even as a child, she yearns for a more glamorous life than her birthright promises. As she leaves Miss Pinkerton's Academy, Becky resolves to conquer English society by any means possible. She deploys all of her wit, guile, and sexuality as she makes her way up into high society during the first quarter of the 19th century.

Meeting highlights building projects



Deanna Lupacchino was the winner of a radio and CD player at the 254th Base Support Bn.'s Tri-border town hall meeting.

By Sylvia Bowron

About 100 members of the Tri-border community gathered for a Town Hall meeting here Nov. 4.

Lt. Col. Richard S. Richardson, 254th Base Support Battalion commander, opened the meeting by welcoming everyone and introducing his staff members who were there

to brief and answer questions. Also present were representatives of the Geilenkirchen U.S. Clinic, the child development center, Joint Forces Command, Brunssum and AFNorth International School.

The community was briefed on major construction plans at Schinnen. One major construction project is the upgrade/renovation of the commissary. The store has not ceased operations during the construction and customer patience was applauded by both the commander and the commissary story director, Ernie Stewart. The store is currently in phase four of nine, with completion scheduled for sometime in the spring.

The new basketball/volleyball court behind the Schinnen Fitness Center is almost completed and is due to open soon, stated Wayne Bardell, Director, Morale, Welfare and Recreation. There will be additional floor space inside the fitness center which will allow staff to move equipment around and bring new and better equipment for its patrons.

Army Community Services (ACS) recently began construction of a handicapped entrance at the front door and modification construction to allow access to the computer room. The final phase of construction at ACS will make

the inside of the building handicapped-accessible.

Army, Air Force Exchange Manager at Schinnen, Rick Fair, mentioned the upcoming major construction plans for his facility. First he mentioned plans for a Shoppette/gas station merger. The plans for the gas station include not only a full service shoppette, but also add a class VI, and video rental. Also, the extension of operating hours was mentioned so that the store would be open and accessible for shift workers.

Next, Fair spoke about the enlargement of the food court/Bookmark. The focus of this project is to build a first class bookstore for patrons and add a coffee shop for a Barnes and Noble-type environment. Plans also include the moving and expanding of the Power Zone into the existing shoppette.

Last mentioned on the AAFES Schinnen initiatives was the upgrade of the main store. "The main store itself is in need of renovation also," said Mr. Fair. Upgrades will be in carpeting, lighting and an opening of more sales floor space and customer service area. Also in the works are plans to move the military clothing sales to an area where it will be more visible and

accessible to the customer.

Following the briefings, the floor was opened for questions and comments that were addressed by the subject experts. Before the meeting was concluded, Ruby Ervin, Schinnen Commissary Operations Administrator gave away a \$100 shopping spree won by Rick Bonds and also a radio/CD player won by Deanna Lupacchino.



Wallace Turner, Acting Army Community Services officer, introduces members of his staff and the programs they offer.

AFAP; a chance now to improve our tomorrow

Information compiled by Sheilla Lee

The Army Family Action Plan (AFAP) is a program that seeks to resolve significant issues that affect Army well-being. It is a "grass roots" process that identifies issues, raises them to the appropriate level, and monitors progress until they are resolved. The Army is the only military service that has such a program, yet it benefits all branches of the military. To date, 568 issues have entered the Department of Army (DA), Headquarters, AFAP process resulting in 92 changes to legislation, 134 Department of Defense or Army Policy and regulatory changes, and 153 new or improved programs or services. More than 50 percent of AFAP issues result in Quality of Life improvements not only for the Army, but for all branches of the military services.

Two of the issues that were brought up at the AFAP Conference, Mar. 11-12 were the hours at the Schinnen Gym and at the Schinnen Post Office. This resulted in the Fitness Center extending their hours to seven days a week. This answered a long-time Army Family Action Plan (AFAP) issue of operational hours on Monday. New

operational hours are Monday-Friday, 6 a.m. - 8 p.m. and on weekends and holidays, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

The post office is now open until 6 p.m. Thursdays for members of the community and geographically separated units who work a standard day and are unable to reach the post office due to distance and their working hours. Thanks to all those who made this happen.

Two important contributions Army constituents can make to the AFAP process are to participate as a delegate and to submit issues. The next Schinnen Community AFAP conference is Feb. 10-11 at the Joint Forces Command (JFC) Chapel, Brunssum.

A delegate tasking will be sent to all tenant commands requesting active-duty military and civilians as delegates. Family members are encouraged to contact the AFAP coordinator directly to participate as delegates. Soldiers, family members and DA civilians are encouraged to support the AFAP program by volunteering as delegates, facilitators, recorders, transcribers, issue support person, or as an observer.

The community is also encouraged to sup-

Headquarters detachment changes command

Capt. Jayson R. Spangler receives the guidon and command of Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 254th Base support Bn., from Lt. Col. Richard S. Richardson, 254th Base Support Bn. Commander, Dec. 5 at Schinnen Sports Center. Command was relinquished by Capt. Julian Avent in a small ceremony attended by 80th ASG Commander, Col. Dean A. Nowowiejski, the 254th BSB Commander Lt. Col. Richard S. Richardson, and Joint Forces Command, Brunssum, Headquarters Battalion Commander Lt. Col. Angela M. Cummings. Spangler assumed command of HHD and will hold these duties in conjunction with his current assignment as the Provost Marshal, 254th BSB. He holds master's of science degrees in international relations and in business management security. Avent, who was the Adjutant and also held command of HHD since



PHOTO: Laurri Garcia

May 2003, will be moving to Fort Bragg, N.C. where he will attend Civil Affairs School.

port AFAP by submitting issues throughout the community at various drop box locations (which will be out this month), directly to the AFAP office or email the AFAP coordi-

nator. Point of contact for the Army Family Action Plan is Sheilla Lee, at Army Community Service, Schinnen, DSN 360-7263/7500 or 31 46 443-7263/7500.

November is Military Family Month and our own families are recognized

For the past nine years, November has been designated as Military Family Month. It was formally established in 1996 by the Armed Services YMCA (ASYMCA) for the nation to show their support for its military members and their families. Each year the President signs a proclamation declaring November Military Family Month, and U. S. military facilities throughout the world conduct special events.

The 254th Base Support Bn. Army Community Services (ACS) began their celebration of Military Family Month with a cake cutting

and a military family display in the PX lobby. The Schinnen ACS and the Geilenkirchen Family Support Center (FSC) set up displays emphasizing programs and services available to our men and women in uniform.

ACS is sponsoring a family collage contest and a local family recognition event, while the ASYMCA is sponsoring an art and essay contest. Forms and information for the ASYMCA's 2005 art and essay contest are available at www.asymca.org. The contest is open to children of military and DoD civilians.

The winners of the collage ACS contests were scheduled to be announced Nov. 18 at the ACS Military Appreciation Day event in the ACS conference room, Building 39. A light dinner of homemade chili was served and the first 50 families received a free copy of Bruce McKenzie's "Aesthetic Melo-dology" jazz CD. The top three collage entries will be displayed in the hallway of the 254th BSB's headquarters in Building 8.

For more information about the Military Family Month activities contact Ed Carter at Schinnen ACS, DSN 360-7500 or 046 443-7500.

Marechaussee will check quarters while you're away

The Royal Marechaussee is responsible for police matters concerning foreign servicemen and their families stationed in the Netherlands. From experience, the Marechaussee knows that during holiday periods, when homes are empty, they are vulnerable to vandalism and burglary.

A lot of trouble can be avoided with more careful planning prior to your departure. Furthermore, there are things you can do to make it less obvious that you are on holiday. The Marechaussee has put together a leaflet, giving 32 tips for your holiday planning. This leaflet is in English. Ask the Royal Marechaussee for one.

The Royal Marechaussee can also conduct checks of your quarters while you are on vacation. All you have to do is stop by the Provost Marshal Office and fill out a card. This stop could be the most important one you make on your vacation. The Marechaussee can also be seen every Thursday at the PMO in Schinnen.

Brussels Community Calendar

ACS - Information Desk now located in NSA Building 4, third floor; *Metro Madness* class Dec. 3, 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.; *Toddler playgroup* every Tuesday, 10 a.m.-noon, CYS multi-purpose room; call 02 717-9684; *National School Lunch* program offers free or reduced priced lunches to eligible families, info: 02 717-9698; *For info on payday loans*, call the ACS Relocation Readiness Program Manager, 02 717-9698. Info/sign up: 02 717-9783.

NSA Chapel - Protestant Worship, Sundays, 10:45 a.m.; *Gospel Service*, Sundays, 12:30 p.m.; *Gospel Sunday School*, 11 a.m., NSA Conference Room; *Sunday School for all ages* 9:30-10:30 a.m.; *Men of the Chapel* meet the first Saturday each month, 9 a.m., NSA Chapel; *Protestant Women of the Chapel* study, Thursdays, 9:30 a.m.-noon, Fellowship Hall; *Children's Christmas Program* Dec. 5, 6 p.m. Info: 02 717-9708.

Outdoor Recreation Trips - Amsterdam Nov. 20, 7 a.m.-9:30 p.m., \$40 adults, \$33 children; Canterbury Nov. 27, 5 a.m.-11 p.m., \$45 adults, \$39 children; Charles Dickens Christmas Market and London shopping Dec. 4-5, 5 a.m.-11 p.m., Euro 130 double room, Euro 150 single room; Aachen and Monchau Christmas Markets Dec. 11, 7:30 a.m.-9:30 p.m., \$40 adults, \$33 children; Cologne Christmas Market Dec. 18, 7 a.m.-9:30 p.m., \$40 adults, \$33 children. Info/sign up: Leon Dillien, 474 68 35 44 or 02 717-

9775.

Three Star Lounge - Hours: Thursday 7 p.m.-midnight, Friday 5 p.m.-1 a.m., Saturday 7 p.m.-1 a.m., Sunday 7-11 p.m.; Every Sunday "Football Night" at 7 p.m.; Lounge closed Nov. 25 and Dec. 9; Movie Night every Thursday, 7:15 p.m. with free popcorn; Right Arm Night Dec. 10, 5 p.m., free wings while they last; BUNCO Nov. 20, 7 p.m.; Single Soldiers Thanksgiving luncheon Nov. 23, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.; DoD Show, White Eagle Dancers, Dec. 4, 7 p.m.; Spades tournament Dec. 11, 7 p.m., sign up by Dec. 4; Pool tournament Dec. 17, 9 p.m.; Children's Christmas party Dec. 18, 4 p.m. Info: 02 717-9732 or 9639. Dec. 31 New Years Eve party, starting 8 p.m. Info: Junet Vasquez, DSN 368-9822.

NSA awards ceremony/holiday party Dec. 10, 1-5 p.m., Three Star Lounge. Info: Lisa Passalacqua, DSN 368-9639.

Multi-Craft Center - Open Wednesday-Thursday 2-9 p.m., Friday 10 a.m.-1 p.m., Saturday-Sunday 10 a.m.-6 p.m.; framing classes Thursdays, 2-6 p.m., \$30; jewelry making Wednesdays, 6 p.m., \$12; Brussels prints and tapestries for purchase, \$15-\$63; engraving and art restoration services available; basic adult ceramics Saturdays, \$30; children ceramics Saturdays, \$20; children's ceramics birthday parties; wood shop power tools classes by appointment, \$11; motorcycle classes Wednesdays, 7-9 p.m., six

weeks, \$45; auto craft classes Thursdays, 7-9 p.m., \$25; winter vehicle checks by appointment, \$30. Info/sign up: 02 717-9629.

Sports and Fitness - Ongoing, self-paced Run For Life program, patches awarded for 100, 200, 300, 400, 500, 750 and 1000 miles; ongoing individual MEDEX training; 5K Turkey Trot, Nov. 20, 10 a.m., Tervuren Park. Info: 02 717-9667.

Child and Youth Services - Registration ongoing for junior NBA/WNBA basketball league. League tips off in December and players receive replica jersey. Health assessment valid through March re-

quired. Cost \$40 first child, \$37 each additional. Coaches also needed. Info: 02 717-9649.

Education Center - French headstart class Nov. 29-Dec. 10, 11 a.m.-1 p.m., NSA Ed Center. Info: 02 717-9704.

BOSS - The Brussels Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers program calls all single armed forces men and women. BOSS aims to improve the overall quality of life for the single soldier through planning recreation and leisure activities and volunteering in the community. Info: 02 707-5343 or email Edward.Garcia@benelux.army.mil.

Library - Open Tuesday-Thursday

SHAPE Entertainment Centre

Nov. 19, 7 p.m.
Nov. 20, 2 p.m., 7 p.m.

Nov. 21, 3 p.m., 7 p.m.
Info: DSN 423-4257
or 065 44 4257

Knightly Dreams

Left to right, A.J. Robinson as Timothy, Alexandra Nicopoulos as Kendall and Austin Leftwich as Clarence

are on a quest to Camelot to become knights. Along the way they meet some critters of the forest, a crazy dragon and some scary little witches. Eventually they arrive in Camelot and are presented to King Arthur, but will he make them knights?

Musical
fun for the
family

PHOTO: Bill Audretsch

254th BSB Local Calendar

ACS - All classes are at Schinnen ACS, Building 39/43: Child safety, Wednesdays, 1-3 p.m.; Anger management, Thursdays, 10 a.m.-noon; Blended families workshop, Dec. 3, 1-3 p.m.; Finding employment workshop, Tuesdays, 10 a.m.-noon; Stress management, Tuesdays, 1-3 p.m.; Hands-on Resumix/resumes, Tuesdays, 2-4 p.m.; Infant massage, Dec. 7 and 21, 10 a.m.-noon. Info: DSN 360-7500.

Playmorning - Thursdays, 9:30-11:30 a.m., at Schinnen Sports Center. Info: DSN 360-7500.

JFC Arts and Crafts Center classes: *Tuesdays*, Basic ceramic painting and dry brush painting, 10 a.m.-noon; *Wednesdays*, Beginner ceramic pouring (by appointment only) 10 a.m.-noon and 6-7 p.m. and Creative Memories Workshop - Scrapbook 10 a.m.-noon. Gem Tree Class, 3-5 p.m., Fly Fishing and Fly Tying Class 6-8 p.m. *Thursdays*: Fine Arts (Painting and Drawing) class, 10 a.m.-noon. *Fridays*: Ceramic/Mosaic workshop 3-5:30 p.m. (by appointment only) Contact for all classes DSN 364-2454.

Schinnen Recreation Plaza - Social hour every Friday starting 4 p.m. in Memories Lane Lounge with free finger snack food. Breakfast like in the States, Saturdays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., in Pin Point Café. UK Night is Nov. 19. Show your British ID card and Bowl for \$1, 6-9 p.m. Family bowling is Nov. 21, 1-3 p.m. When you bowl three strikes in a row Thanksgiving weekend, Nov. 26-28, that game is free. To arrange parties or special events, call the bowling center at DSN 360-7207 or 046 443-7207.

Schinnen Fitness and Sport Center is now open seven days a week to help you stay fit. New hours are Monday-Friday, 6 a.m.-8 p.m.; weekend and holidays, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Every Monday and Wednesday try taekwondo and kickboxing, 6-7 p.m.; Step aerobics is

every Tuesday and Thursday, 6-7 p.m. and Body Balance is Thursdays, 5-6 p.m. Info: DSN 360-7560 or 046 443-7560.

The **Christmas tree lighting ceremony** is Dec. 9, at 5:30 p.m., at Schinnen Sports Center. There will be pictures with Santa, and children's amusement rides. The Youth Services Middle School Torch Club will serve hot drinks and goodies, donations accepted. Info: DSN 364-3595, or 31 45 526-3595.

The **Exceptional Family Member Program** works with military and civilian agencies to provide comprehensive community support, housing, educational, medical, and personnel services to families with special needs. For information about services, rights and responsibilities, or if you want to connect with others, contact the EFMP manager at Army Community Services Center, Schinnen, DSN 360-7371/7500 or 31 46 443-7371/7500.

Postal hours extended - The 90th Postal Company, 4th Platoon, Schinnen, has extended post office hours for holiday convenience. Hours now until Dec. 18 are Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.; Thursday, 9 a.m.-6 p.m.; and Saturday, 8 a.m.-noon. Army Post Office customers are urged to mail holiday cards and presents to friends and relatives in CONUS as early as possible. If you have five or more prepared packages and want to avoid long lines, call DSN 360-7273 or 31 46 443-7273 for an appointment 8-9 a.m. This service is available year-round.

A child abuse and neglect parent information evening is Nov. 23, 5-6 p.m., at Youth Services, Building H-603, Joint Forces Command (JFC) Brunssum. Youth Services, 254th BSB and ACS sponsor the meeting. Info: DSN 364-3008 or 31 45 526-3008.

New media - Joint Forces Command (JFC), Brunssum Library added about 200 new

books, and 400 CDs and DVDs to its inventory, donated by the 254th Base Support Bn., Schinnen. Info: DSN 354-2669 or 31 45 526-2669.

AFNorth International Club Charity Committee sells Rousseau chocolates as a fundraiser now through Dec. 24. Buy chocolates at Schinnen Thrift Shop, Wednesday-Saturday, 11 a.m.-3 p.m.; and Sunday, noon-3 p.m. Other sale locations are AFNorth International School (see Ms. Frawley) and JFC Brunssum UK Thrift Shop. The committee's Belgian and French delegations hold a Craft Fair Nov. 23, 10 a.m.-noon, at International Inn, Brunssum. Delegations of all nationalities offer items and the event is open to U.S. and NATO ID card holders. A Christmas tour of eight homes, sponsored by American Spouses' Club and International Charity Committee is Dec. 7, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Donation is Euro 12. All profits benefit the charity committee. Info: Gayle, 31 46 443-7436, or Kim, 31 46 451-6430.

Help orphans - The Schinnen American Spouses' Club and the International Club, Brunssum deliver aid to Afghanistan. 'Kabul Project' needs: Toiletry Drive, donate soaps, shampoos, lotions, wipes, powder, etc. Hotel samples welcome; Donate toys from kid's meals; Donate small change in any currency; Donate clothes, shoes, toys, books, and unbreakable household items for children and adults; Donate boxes. Drop by Schinnen Thrift Shop, pick up a box, and mail at the U.S. Post Office using MPS at no cost. Fill out white customs forms from the Post office and return to the Thrift Shop addressed to - HQ US CONT, ISAF, APO AE 09356. Collection points for donations and ticket sales are at the United Kingdom (UK) Thrift Shop and Hive (JFC Brunssum), U.S. Thrift Shop (Schinnen), Ms. Frawley at AFNORTH International School, J6/OF5 Lowe HQ Bldg,

JFC Brunssum. Info: Gayle, 31 46 443-7436, or Kim 31 46 451-6430.

Hanukkah Celebrated - The Jewish community of Brunssum-Schinnen-Geilenkirchen celebrates Hanukkah Dec. 11, 4 p.m., at JFC Brunssum Chapel Centre. There's a special party for children. Please bring a dish to share. Latkes are especially welcome. RSVP: Chris Lark, 045 526-2903, or Jack Segal, 045 526-3378.

The Maastricht Lacrosse Team "Lamas" seeks players. Practice is Mondays and Wednesdays, 7 p.m., at Sportpark West in Maastricht. Some experience is preferred. Info: www.maaslax.com or contact Erik Vogels, 31 64 201 2143.

Education Center news - Soldiers interested in the *Green to Gold Program* submit application packets available at Treebeek Education Center administration office. Soldiers can complete their college education and become a commissioned officer. Submission time is now through April 1. The *Scholarships for Military Children Program* recognizes military families and celebrates the role of the commissary in the military community. Students whose mother or father are active duty, reserve/guard, or retired military personnel or are the survivor of a deceased member, can apply. Applicants must have full-time college plans. Applications must include an essay on how the heightened awareness of terrorism has impacted the student's life, and are due at commissaries Feb. 16. Eligibility and information about DeCA's program and other scholarships can be found at www.militaryscholar.org, or visit the Treebeek Education Center. For information about this and other scholarship programs, call Tom Kruse, Education Services Officer, DSN 364-6011/6041 or 31 45 563-6011/6041.

SHAPE and Chièvres Community Calendar

Toastmasters is coming to the Teen Center on SHAPE. Join us and learn the skills you need for public speaking, in a relaxed and fun atmosphere. Sessions begin in November. Info: Elisa Gómez, DSN 423-5610.

A prayer breakfast, "An Attitude of Gratitude," hosted by 39th Signal Bn., is Nov. 22, 7 a.m., at SHAPE Dining Facility. Guest speaker is Pastor Vernon Fowler. Cost is \$1.75. R.S.V.P needed: Barbara De Vos, DSN 361-5214.

Have your family photo taken at SHAPE Child Development Centre Dec. 2, 6:15-8:10 p.m. Package price of Euro 30 includes: 1 – 7"x9.5"; 2 – 5"x7"; 6 – wallet size; 10 – mini-wallet. Appointments: Child Development Center front desk, DSN 423-5618.

Holiday commissary hours for Chièvres Air Base are: Nov 22, Monday, open 10 a.m.- 7 p.m.; Nov. 25, Thanksgiving Day, closed; Nov. 26, open 10 a.m.-7 p.m.

SHAPE Trips and Tours - Building 307, Community Activity Centre, Trips: Nov. 20, Bluewater and Lakeside Mall, Euro 30; Nov. 27, Amsterdam, Euro 25; Dec. 4, Paris, and cruise on the Seine; Dec. 11-12, Alsace Christmas Markets Weekend; Dec. 15, Maastricht and the Valkenburg Grotto Christmas Market; Dec. 18, Düsseldorf Christmas Market; Dec. 23-28, Christmas in Switzerland; Dec. 28, Disneyland at Christmastime; Dec. 31, Medieval Dinner. New in 2005: Jan. 15-16, A Winter Extravaganza; March 25-April 2, Caribbean Cruise. Now available — credit card payment by telephone. Also gift certificates. Info: DSN 423-3884 or 065 44-3884 or email st&t@benelux.army.mil

Youth Services International Holiday Celebration is Dec. 4, noon-3 p.m. Open to everyone, highlights traditions in all the NATO countries. Plenty of food, games and crafts as well as Santa, St. Nicolas and Black Peter, Befanna (the good witch from Italy) and the Three Kings. No entry fee but some activities will have

cheerleading and table tennis. Head coaches will receive discounts: first child, free; second child, 50 percent fee reduction. Info: CYS Sports Staff, Building 503, SHAPE, DSN 423-5856.

Prime Time Lounge is available for Holiday Parties or special events. Seating for up to 100 people. Outdoor Pavilion, fire-

The 80th ASG Christmas party is Dec. 10, noon-4 p.m., at Community Activity Center on Chièvres Air Base. Cost is Euro 8 per person, sign up by Dec. 1. Fee includes meal and drinks. Everyone is encouraged to bring desserts. Info: Harry Geesaman, DSN 361-5589.

Next newcomer's brief, Dec. 9, 8:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Open to all DoD ID card holders and their families. Free lunch provided.

BOSS Toy Drive at the U.S housing areas Casteau, Maisières, Green Park, Lens, Ghlin. Toys are collected for children's hospital in Ath and orphanage. Next BOSS meeting is Dec. 2, 16, 1.30 p.m., SHAPE Community Activity Center, conference room. Info: DSN 423-3834.

Self-Care class at the SHAPE Health Facility Dec. 9, 10-11 a.m. Receive free books and authority to obtain over-the-counter medication from the clinic without seeing a doctor. Info: DSN 423-5948.

Rendez-vous with French, Dec. 21, 9:30 a.m. at Hotel le Maisieres. Info: DSN 366-6252, 423-7598.

Cultural Adaptation trip is Dec. 11, 8:30 a.m. Meeting at Hotel le Maisières. Info: DSN 423-4332.

French Headstart class Dec. 6-17, 1:30-4:30 p.m., Building 212, Room 130, SHAPE. The course is mandatory for all USAREUR soldiers E1-O5. Other active duty military and adult family members may attend on a space-available basis. Info: DSN 423-3466.

SHAPE Entertainment Center – new play: Love letters, Dec. 9, 10 and 11, 7:30 p.m. Ticket sales and info at DSN 423-3312. Auditions for SHAPE Player Tournament of Plays Dec. 13, 14, 15 – appointment required. Call DSN 423-4257.

New Years Eve party at the

SHAPE Officers Club, Dec. 31, doors open at 6:30 p.m. Evening dress only. Open to entire SHAPE/Chièvres community and guests. Price Euro 80 includes menu and all drinks for the entire evening. Disco on stage. Ticket sale now at the Officers Club. Please purchase tickets before Dec. 21, no entrance without ticket. Info and ticket sales at DSN 423-4133/4827.

Education Center update - Central Texas College SHAPE/Brussels offers vocational courses in the next term: CDEC 1356 - Emergent Literacy for Early Childhood (SHAPE); CJSA 1342 - Criminal Investigation for Criminal Justice (SHAPE); and CJSA 1317 - Juvenile Justice System for Criminal Justice (Brussels). We also offer Emergency Medical Technology - B Certification (EMSP 1401/1160, SHAPE 5-credit.) We would like to start the Early Childhood Profession course in Brussels. If you are interested please contact your local CTC representative, DSN 423-7447 or DSN 368-9709 or email Vanessa.vines@europe.ctcd.edu. Visit the CTC website at www.europe.ctcd.edu.

SHAPE Gym update - SHAPE Monthly Fun Run, Nov. 25, 12:30 p.m., at SHAPE Main Gym; The 2004 International Basketball Tournament is Nov. 29- Dec. 4 at SHAPE Main Gym. Info: Steve Richardson DSN 423-3905.

SHAPE Healthcare Facility is open Nov. 25, 8-10 a.m.; the facility celebrates its unit Christmas party Dec. 17 and will be open 8-10 a.m.; the facility is open Dec. 24-Jan. 3, 8-10 a.m. Any medical emergencies after duty hours, please go to the emergency room at your local civilian hospital.



APO Mailing Deadlines to the U.S.

Nov. 20 SAM Parcels	Dec. 4 PAL Parcels
Dec. 11 Priority Mail Parcels, First Class Letters and Cards	
Dec. 18 Express Mail	

a fee. Info: Christine Wilson, DSN 423-5613.

Dec. 1 is World HIV/AIDS Awareness Day at American Red Cross. Info: DSN 423-4008.

Youth sports - girls basketball, bantam girls (ages 10-12 years) season is Dec. 4-March 5. Registrations accepted until Nov. 22. Fee is Euro 19. Sign up at Central Registration Office, Bldg 209 Mon-Fri 0800-1700. Info: 065 44-3874 or the Sports Office, 065 44-5856.

Child and Youth Services needs volunteer coaches for basketball,

place, bar, DJ, food catering available. Info DSN 361-5540.

SHAPE Athletics Schedule: Ladies rugby, Dec. 4 and 18, 2:30 p.m., SHAPE rugby pitch; Men's rugby, Dec. 12, 1:30 p.m.; Unit basketball, Dec. 9, 14 and 16, 6:30 p.m.; Community basketball, Dec. 11, 1 p.m. men, and 3 p.m. women, SHAPE main gym. Holiday hours: main gym, green gym, pool – closed Dec. 24, 25, 31 and Jan. 1, Open Dec. 26-30 and Jan 3 and 4, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Info: Master Sgt. Pritchard, DSN 423-3195.

FAMILY from Page 1

"It's a very tight-knit group of folks who work together very closely to try to bring about things that normally a small community could not have otherwise such as a sporting program, a scouting program and others that require a lot of volunteers. People have to step up, pitch in and make things happen. It's something that is indicative of all military communities, but it's particularly good here. We've been very

pleased with that part of it."

Despite their active schedule the Oppenheims make time for themselves.

"We're both fortunate to have our mothers come to visit often allowing just the two of us time alone," Kris said. "And he takes me out to dinner now and then," she laughed.

Kris is known as the Brussels Cookie Mom because of her work with the Girl Scouts. Last year she had 400 cases of cookies piled high in their living room. While the scouts sold them all, she said

tongue-in-cheek that "the Oppenheims' ate 200 of them."

The family will be in the Brussels community for one more year before reassignment.


Oppenheim has mixed feelings about his next duty station.

"I certainly do enjoy the work I'm doing here seeing the intersection between politics and military issues and policy. I would be interested in continuing in that field but I would be very happy to go back to serve with Soldiers. It's hard to

predict what comes next.


"The war on terrorism in particular has made it harder to be at a headquarters. It often feels very distant from the action, and it is. But at the same time if we do our business well here, we can, perhaps, have an even greater impact. Getting allied involvement in operations is an important thing to do. You have to do your best wherever you are put."

Kris summed it all up: "Military families are wonderful and a pleasure to be with no matter where you are."



Meteor-Heraut Deadline and Publication Dates							
Copy due (noon)	Print Date	Copy due (noon)	Print Date	Copy due (noon)	Print Date	Copy due (noon)	Print Date
Nov. 22	Dec. 3	Jan. 3	Jan. 14	Jan. 31	Feb. 11	Feb. 28	March 11
Dec. 6	Dec. 17	Jan. 14	Jan. 28	Feb. 14	Feb. 25	March 14	March 25

About Us



Meteor-Heraut

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Copy and photographs are due by noon 10 calendar days before publication date.

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80th ASG staff tours Bulge sites



PHOTO: Jan Maessen

The 80th Area Support Group staff ride stopped the bus to look down into Clervaux, Luxembourg, the town defended by the U.S. 110th Inf. Regt. during World War II. The castle near center frame was used by the regiment's headquarters company.

Key leaders and staff of the 80th Area Support Group conducted a staff ride Nov. 9-10 of the area of eastern Belgium directly affected by the "Battle of the Bulge."

A German surprise offensive in December 1944 tore a huge gap, or bulge, in the American lines, causing many to know the offensive and subsequent fighting from Dec. 16, 1944 to 30 Jan. 30, 1945 as the Battle of the Bulge.

Col. Dean Nowowiejski, commander of the 80th ASG, set three basic objectives for the staff ride. First, staff ride participants had to come together and work as a team and assimilate new staff members.

"With the huge geographical footprint and the three separate support sites of Chièvres/Daumerie, Schinnen, and Brussels there is the tendency to never visit the other sites or meet the person you talk to over the telephone or email," Nowowiejski said. "Getting out the key members of the staff as a cohesive unit and effectively working, interacting, and learning as a group is a characteristic of all good teams."

The second goal was to demonstrate the tremendous historical resources under the footprint of the 80th ASG that will be visited by thousands of World War II veterans and their families during the 60th anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge.

Spc. Rebecca Jones is an 80th ASG communications security specialist and the most junior participant on the staff ride.

"People who have not been exposed to this have absolutely no idea how rich Belgium is in history," Jones said. "Many of the battlefields we looked at were virtually the same as they were during the fighting."

Nowowiejski's third goal was to include a series of presentations to encourage professional development.

The first day's itinerary began at Henri-Chapelle Cemetery, east of Liège. It is the final resting place of over 8,000 U.S. Soldiers who died in World War II. The staff ride members conducted a brief memorial service and then separated to visit graves of men killed in the Dec. 17, 1944 "Malmedy Massacre" in which 82 U.S. prisoners of war were murdered by the German Battle Group Peiper at the Baugnez crossroads near Malmedy.

The visit to Henri-Chapelle reminded participants of the cost and sacrifice of war. "This is a breathtakingly beautiful place," said Jackie Young, the command's Equal Employment Opportunity program manager. "There's an individual story that goes with each grave, especially the 34 sets of brothers buried side by side."

After departing Henri-Chapelle, the 80th ASG staff members visited the Remember 39-45 Museum in Thimister-Clermont. This unique museum on a family farm is maintained by Marcel and Mathilde Schmetz. A collection of thousands of artifacts and displays chronicles the struggle of the American and German armies for the eastern portion of Belgium. While the museum captured your attention, the Schmetz husband and wife team made the biggest impression.

"It is unbelievable how sincerely they appreciate the sacrifice of American families to help free their home from an invader," said 1st Sgt. Michael Roth, the 80th ASG Headquarters and Headquarters Company's senior enlisted Soldier. "It was just as educational as it was heartwarming. This is definitely the place for a unit visit or Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers outing."

The staff ride passengers bid farewell to the Schmetz family and turned south from Liège to enter the Ardennes forest. The forest in 1944, as it is now, was thickly wooded and cut by sharply-banked streams and ringed with fog. The terrain provided the perfect place to make a surprise

attack for the German army. The staff ride bus picked up the exact trace of Battle Group Peiper during the German attack and followed the trail until darkness set in. Staff ride participants made their presentations and handed out educational materials at stops along the route. One such stop was the actual site of the Malmedy Massacre. A monument built nearby provides the venue for the yearly ceremony supported by the 80th ASG.

Darkness ended the outing after the visit to Lienne Creek Bridge. Sgt. 1st Class William Santoro researched the story of the bridge, the only one heavy enough in the narrow Ardennes valley to support the weight of German King Tiger tanks. Soldiers from the 291st Engineer Bn. blew the bridge up just as German tanks arrived to cross it.

"I am a combat engineer," Santoro said. "The whole presentation and research brought out to me that I have to train my squad leaders to be able to do a mission like this bridge quickly, safely, and under pressure."

The bus reversed its route to visit the Museum '44 at La Gleize. This museum paints the aftermath of Battle Group Peiper's failure to cross Lienne Creek. His battle group withdrew to defend La Gleize from counterattacking U.S. forces. The fighting nearly destroyed the entire town. Finally Peiper ran out of fuel, abandoned his vehicles, and escaped on foot with 800 of his men.

The bus passengers spent the night at the Belgian Army barracks at Marche-en-Famenne before breakfast and a road march to Luxembourg the next morning. Mother Nature dropped a blanket of snow, ensuring the staff ride players could see the Ardennes as U.S. Soldiers did in 1944.

Day two began with presentations on the heroic fight of the U.S. 28th Infantry Div. in the ridges east of Bastogne across the Luxembourg border. While much is made of the

stand of 101st Airborne Div. at Bastogne, the 28th Infantry Div. was largely responsible for delaying the German advance long enough to allow the 101st enough time to occupy and defend the city.

Col. Hurley Fuller commanded the 110th Infantry in the fight for Clervaux and Denise Davis from NATO Support Activity in Brussels profiled him.

"I bet the German commander wanted anyone but Col. Fuller to be in charge of Clervaux," Davis said. "Studying how Fuller went about it provides me with a lot of inspiration. Like Fuller, I might not have all the resources I want, but I'm still going to get the job done somehow because so many people depend on me."

Maj. Bill Willis from the 80th ASG Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization, and Security presented the fight of Team Cherry, an infantry and tank team that took on the German forces advancing on Bastogne from the east.

"I am in awe of what these men did under the conditions they had," Willis said. "No one knew the threat facing them. The weather was terrible, their equipment didn't measure up to the German gear in a lot of cases, and they didn't know who was holding on to their left and right flanks. But yet, they did their job and held on."

The last stop of the staff ride was the terrain overlooking the stand of Team Desobry at Noville, north of Bastogne. For Spc. Rebecca Jones, standing on this ground was a special moment.

"A week ago, I found out that my grandfather, Eugene Huegel, was a Soldier in the 705th Tank Destroyer Bn.," Jones said. "Because he spoke fluent German, the 705th used him as a scout for the road march into Bastogne. The unit avoided German ambushes and got into Bastogne just before the Germans closed the ring around the city. Some of the tank destroyers hustled to Noville and helped Team Desobry on this exact ground where I am standing. It is just way too cool to know my grandfather made that happen."

Command Sgt. Maj. John Gaines, the top enlisted Soldier at 254th Base Support Bn. at Schinnen, summed it all up. "NCOs that work in staff assignments need to participate in every development opportunity that they can. I observed development of NCO thinking and reasoning skills in every presentation and professional discussions taking place at every stop. As much as we enjoyed this exercise, that for me is the bottom line: the NCOs learned how to better execute their jobs."

Spc. Jones didn't have the time the weekend after the ride to call and tell her family about the experience.

"I'm taking a group of friends down to Bastogne to stay the weekend and learn more about the places where my grandfather's unit stood and fought," Jones said. "I'll call my family after I get back and tell them more of what I saw and experienced."

Denise Davis made a comment representing the civilian point of view about the staff ride.

"I saw this as a great opportunity to meet my teammates at Chièvres and Schinnen and get to know them," Davis said. "I made so many professional friendships and contacts in these two days that I will use again and again."

Dining facility gets turkeys in a row

There may be an episode of conspicuous consumption in your future at SHAPE Dining Facility.

The only U.S. Army dining facility that exists anywhere in Europe outside of Germany is ramping up for their mission to stuff active duty military members, civilians, spouses, and children with ID cards for Thanksgiving dinner Nov. 25.

Reservations are not necessary. Tickets are on sale now, and additional tickets have been provided to units where they can be bought early, which should decrease the waiting line on "T-Day." Guests can also just show up, pay at the door, and dine.

The regular price is \$5.40, but there will be a reduced rate for spouses and children of E-4s and below.

Thanksgiving dinner will be served to anyone 11:30 a.m.-3 p.m. However, suggested serving times for area military units are:

12:30-2 p.m. - U.S. Army NATO; SHAPE Finance Office
2-3 p.m. - 80th ASG; 39th Signal Bn.

3-4 p.m. - 650th MI; SHAPE Health Care Facility; Air Force, Navy, Marine Corps Elements

Suggested attire: Dress Blues or Class A uniforms are encouraged but not mandatory for the military; others, semi-formal Sunday attire. No tennis shoes or jeans, please.

For more information, contact Chief Warrant Officer 3 Dieufort Dieujuste, DSN 423-2485 or Dieufort.Dieujuste@usanato.army.mil.



Composite photo

Sgt. Stephanie Walker, U.S. Army NATO, works with other staff members at SHAPE Dining Facility Nov. 12 getting ready for Thanksgiving. The holiday gives military cooks a chance to entertain their guests as well as prepare a lavish menu.